

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3646
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
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TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: CONTINUED PRESS SPECULATION ON
JUNE 12 GOI CABINET DISCUSSION
REF: (A) TEL AVIV 7446, (B) TEL AVIV 7517

1. SPECULATION CONTINUES IN THE JUNE 15 ISRAELI PRESS
ON THE GOI CABINET'S INABILITY TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON
WHAT ANSWERS TO GIVE TO THE TWO US QUESTIONS. SPECULATION
CURRENTLY FOCUSES ON EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE BEGIN AND
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WEIZMAN POSITIONS. HAARETZ (BENZIMAN) REPORTS BEGIN CON-
TINUES TO OPPOSE COMMITTING GOI NOW TO NEGOTIATIONS OF
"FINAL STATUS" OF THE TERRITORIES. BENZIMAN SAYS BEGIN
REGARDS CABINET DECISION AS A TEST OF HIS SUPPORT AND
MAY RESIGN AND DISSOLVE CABINET IF HIS POSITION IS NOT
ACCEPTED. MAARIV (HARIF) AGREES, FEATURING HEADLINE
STORY "FEAR THAT BEGIN 'MAY DRAW CONCLUSION' UNLESS

AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA IS FOUND". HOWEVER, YEDIOT "ZIMUKI) HEADLINE STORY CAUTIONS THAT ACCORDING TO PM'S OFFICE, RESIGNATION REPORTS ARE PURELY SPECULATIVE. EFFORTS, HE WRITES, CONTINUE TO FIND A COMPROMISE FORMULA.

2. HAARETZ AND AL HAMISHMAR (SHEHORI) BOTH REPORT THAT WEIZMAN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT A GOVERNMENT CRISES, IS CONSIDERING CHANGES TO HIS PLAN TO BRING IT CLOSER TO BEGIN'S POSITION. SUCH A CHANGE, THEY SAY, WOULD CONSIST OF DROPPING THE WORDS "FINAL" OR "PERMANENT" FROM THE TERM "PERMANENT STATUS", SUBSTITUTING INSTEAD THAT THE GOI IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A "CHANGE IN THE STATUS" OF THE TERRITORIES. BENZIMAN AND HARIF AGREE THAT BEGIN CANNOT ACCEPT TERMS "FINAL OR "PERMANENT" BECAUSE THEY REFLECT FURTHER EROSION OF ISRAELI POSITION WITHOUT RECIPROCITY FROM EGYPT. BEGIN WOULD, THEY WRITE, BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE SUCH CONCESSIONS ONLY ON A BASIS OF MUTUALITY. HARIF ADDS THAT ATTEMPTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY TO ALTER WEIZMAN FORMULA SO AS TO READ APPROXIMATELY AS FOLLOWS: "THE GOI ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE THAT, WITH THE CONSENT OF ALL SIDES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS, TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE GAZA STRIP."

3. HAARETZ (MARGALITH), AL HAMISHMAR, AND JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) SEE MAJOR ATTEMPTS AT COMPROMISE BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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LANDAU AND WEIZMAN PROPOSALS. DAYAN, THEY BELIEVE, HAS LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT AMONG THE MINISTERS WHO ARE POLARIZING AROUND LANDAU AND WEIZMAN. DAVAR (BLOCH) DISAGREES, ARGUING THAT DAYAN AND THE LIBERAL, DMC AND NRP MINISTERS ARE READY TO COMPROMISE WITH THE LANDAU PROPOSAL. WEIZMAN, HE CLAIMS, IS STICKING TO HIS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, NOT HAVING BEEN OFFERED A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE.

4. POST (FRIEDLER) REPORTS DEPUTY P.M. YADIN AS STRIVING TO ACHIEVE "SOME SORT OF GOVERNMENT CONSENSUS" FOR "AS POSITIVE A REPLY AS POSSIBLE" TO THE QUESTIONS. FRIEDLER CLAIMS THAT YADIN BELIEVES A NUMBER OF MINISTERS, IN ADDITION TO THOSE FROM THE DMC, COULD BE MOBILIZED IN FAVOR OF SUCH A CONSENSUS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD CREATE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS, YADIN SAID, "WE'LL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE REACH IT."

5. ALL PAPERS CARRY STORIES OF THE MONDALE VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT ONLY POST (LANDAU) AND HAARETZ REPORT THAT SOME OBSERVERS IMMEDIATELY SAW THE VISIT-- AND PARTICULARLY THE TIMING OF ITS ANNOUNCEMENT--AS AN ATTEMPT BY WASHINGTON TO INFLUENCE THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS. THE VISIT, THESE OBSERVERS REASON, WOULD BE INOPPORTUNE IF IT FOLLOWS A NEGATIVE RESPONSE

BY ISRAEL TO THE TWO QUESTIONS. LANDAU ALSO REPORTS ".....
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THE TIMING OFSAUNDERS'....
TESTIMONY...SEEMED PLAINLY NOT COINCIDENTAL AND THEY EX-
PRESSED BITTERNESS OVER BOTH ITS TIMING AND CONTENT."

6. FURTHER COMPLICATING THE PICTURE ARE QUESTIONS REGARDING
BEGIN'S HEALTH. BLOCH AND LANDAU REPORT BEGIN WILL BE
SPENDING THREE DAYS "RESTING AT HOME." THIS, THEY SAY,
IMMEDIATELY TRIGGERED RENEWED SPECULATION ABOUT HIS HEALTH.

7.HAARETZ AND YEDIOT WRITE THAT IF NO COMPROMISE IS FOUND
BY SUNDAY, A DRAFTING COMMITTEE MAY BE FORMED TO FIND A SOLU-
TION. ZIMUTI (YEDIOT) CONCLUDES THAT MINISTERS ARE AWARE OF
THE FACT THAT IF NO ACCEPTABLE FORMULA IS FOUND IN ADVANCE,
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AND THE WEIZMAN AND DAYAN PROPOSALS ARE VOTED DOWN BY THE
CABINET, BEGIN'S STATUS WILL BE HARMED IN US EYES, AND
TENSIONS BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON CAN BE EXPECTED
TO RISE.
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